

BELT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 29

P.O. Box 197

Belt, Montana 59412

Telephone (406) 277-3351

Fax (406) 277-4466

Calvin L. Johnson
Superintendent

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 2/13/07
HB 541

Bill Edwards
Principal

1-23-07

TO : Curt Campbell
FROM : Calvin L. Johnson
RE : Youth Employment & Training Program

Mr. Campbell,

Over the last 13 years while serving as Superintendent in 2 different school districts, I have enjoyed working with you to provide our youth with much needed employment, counseling and educational opportunities. As a school Superintendent, I realize the at risk nature of many of the youth we are serving and the valuable opportunities you have made available for these students in need.

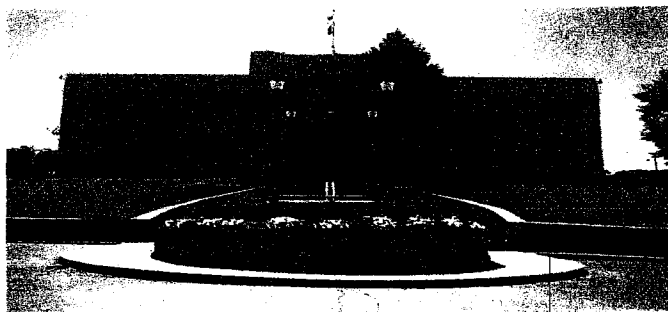
We support the Youth Employment Program and believe the program provides a valuable service to our at risk students. It would make sense to me that it would be in the best interest to go with a proven agency that has established a track record of success over the years. An organization like Opportunities Inc. that has been dedicated to the youth of our area and provided a committed service that I have personally been involved with for several years. I hope that this opportunity can be obtained and provided for the youth of our valley. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Thank you,



Calvin L. Johnson, Supt.
Belt Public Schools

Ben Ober,
Commission Chairman
Tom Gordon,
Commissioner
Allan Underdal,
Commissioner
Merle Raph,
County Attorney
Donna Matoon,
Sheriff
Dan B. Whitted,
Coroner
Commissioners
Office# 406-424-8310
tccomm@3rivers.net



Mary Ann Harwood,
Clerk & Recorder
Sandra Peers,
Clerk of Court
Boyd Jackson,
Treasurer/Assessor
Supt. Of Schools
Helen I. Schnee,
Public Administrator
Jack R. Stokes,
Justice of the Peace
Clerk & Records Office#
406-424-8300
Fax# 406-424-8301
tcclerk@3rivers.net

COUNTY OF TOOLE

226 1ST Street South
Toole County Courthouse, Shelby, MT 59474

1-26-07

Opportunities, Inc.
622 1st Ave. So.
Great Falls, Mt. 59405

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been indirectly involved with Opportunities, Inc. Summer Youth Employment Program. It has been a valuable program in training our youth in several occupations in which they have gone on to continue their learned skills in adult life. This program also enables them to be more responsible in becoming good responsible working citizens.

This program has been very beneficial in filling job vacancies that have occurred in our own agency. Many of these youth have gone on to be full-time employees within our area working in the same or similar occupation as they were trained in the youth program.

I highly recommend supporting the Summer Youth Employment Training Program.

Sincerely,

Ben Ober, Toole Co. Commission Chr.

OPPORTUNITIES, Inc.

905 1st Ave. North • P.O. Box 2289

Great Falls, MT 59405

(406) 761-0310

• FAX 761-0363

coletteg@gfoppinc.org



Colette Gray

Community Advocate



38 ° BELOW ICE CREAM SHOPPE

To Whom It May Concern:

January 23, 2007

I am in support of Opportunities, Inc. for many reasons. We need to give our youth a chance to learn and become independent. They are the workers and business owners we will be dependent on in future years.

I have one boy on the program graduating this year and he will now be able to manage my business and buy it in 2 years. Another girl has a small child – just finished getting her C.N.A. certificate and later on wants to become a nurse. Neither would have done this without Opportunities, Inc.

We spend a lot of money on things that are meaningless – this program is not one of them. It has allowed me, a small business owner, to help two young people.

Please, please, keep this program open. It helps more than you can imagine.

Thank you,

Stephanie Grey, Owner/Manager

601 West Main Street, NVSC
Cut Bank, MT 59427

Phone: (406) 873-5077

My name is Hollie King I have been an employee at Opportunities, Inc. for eleven years.

I started the Summer Youth Employment when I was twenty-one, I was a single parent, college drop-out and was on every public assistance program out there. The

Summer Youth program gave me the job skills to excel at jobs out in the community. I

was hired on with Opportunities, Inc in the fall of 1996, I have done many different jobs within the agency I have worked in the Weatherization Dept, Low Income Energy

Assistance program, and I am now the housing inspector for the Section 8 Housing

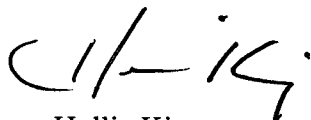
Program. I think this is a wonderful program for disadvantage youth to teach skills and

to make them self-sufficient. This experience was wonderful I now am self-sufficient, I

am no longer on any public assistance and have been a home owner for nine years. I

owe all of this to the Youth Employment Program.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. King' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hollie King

February 13, 2007

To Whom This May Concern;

RE: 541 – Summer Youth Employment

Hello there my name is Tina Lopez and I am currently the Program Director for the Foster Grandparent Program of Cascade County. At the age of 18, I became a single mother of a beautiful baby girl named Courtney. My responsibilities became enormous and I had no idea where to turn, so I decided I needed to find a job and become financially stable on my own.

In January 2001, I became involved with Opportunities Youth Employment Program. I became interested in a clerical job I thought I could enjoy, so went and had an interview with the director. I was hired right there on the spot to help with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program under Opportunities Youth Employment Program. I was very successful in my duties throughout Youth Employment, and I was very pleased with all the help they have given me throughout my time.

In January 2002, I was officially hired as an employee with Cascade County Retired Senior Volunteer Program. I later became the Homeland Defense Volunteer Coordinator for Cascade County. I set-up, recruited, and worked very closely with the Great Falls Police Department in implementing and sustaining Neighborhood Watches throughout Cascade County. I worked with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program for 4 years and I recently got a opportunity to become the Program Director for the Foster Grandparent Program, but I still work very closely with RSVP staff and volunteers on a regular basis.

I am so happy with all I have succeeded in. My daughter is now 7 years old and I adopted my brother's two girls, 7 and 9 years. My life is very busy now, but I contribute my success to being involved with Summer Youth Employment for I would have never have met all the fine people and volunteers I work with everyday for I am going on 6 years with Cascade County now and I am very proud of my self for coming thus far, for I am only 25 years old.

Sincerely,

Tina Lopez, Director
Foster Grandparent Program, Cascade County
(406) 454-6992
fostergrandparents@co.cascade.mt.us